AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A water soluble iron carbohydrate complex having a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 80,000 to 400,000, comprising the reaction product of:

(a) an aqueous solution of an iron (III) salt and

(b) an aqueous solution of the oxidation product of

(i) at least one maltodextrin and

(ii) an aqueous hypochlorite solution at an alkaline pH, wherein,

when one maltodextrin is present, the maltodextrin has a dextrose equivalent of between 5 and 20, and wherein,

when a mixture of more than one maltodextrin is present, the dextrose equivalent of each individual maltodextrin is between 2 and 40, and the dextrose equivalent of the mixture is between 5 and 20.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A process for producing ~~the~~ a water soluble iron carbohydrate complex having a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 80,000 to 400,000, comprising:

(a) oxidizing at least one maltodextrin in an aqueous solution at an alkaline pH with an aqueous hypochlorite solution to form an oxidized maltodextrin solution, and

(b) contacting the oxidized maltodextrin solution with an aqueous solution of an iron (III) salt, wherein,

when one maltodextrin is present, the maltodextrin has a dextrose equivalent of between 5 and 20, and wherein,

when a mixture of more than one maltodextrin is present, the dextrose equivalent of each individual maltodextrin is between 2 and 40, and the dextrose equivalent of the mixture is between 5 and 20.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the oxidation of the at least one maltodextrin is carried out in the presence of bromide ions.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the iron (III) salt is iron (III) chloride.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The process of claim 2, wherein (b) contacting the aqueous solution of oxidized maltodextrin and the aqueous solution of the iron (III) salt is carried out at a pH of 2 or less to form a final solution, and the process further comprises (c) raising the pH of the final solution to a value in the range of 5 to 12.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The process of claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 15°C to the boiling point for 15 minutes up to several hours.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A medicament comprising an aqueous solution of the iron carbohydrate complex of claim 1.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The medicament of claim 7, wherein the medicament is formulated for parenteral or oral application.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented) The process of claim 3, wherein the iron (III) salt is iron (III) chloride.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The process of claim 3, wherein ~~(c)~~ (b) contacting the aqueous solution of oxidized maltodextrin and the aqueous solution of the iron (III) salt is carried out at a pH of 2 or less to form a final solution, and the process further comprises (c) raising the pH of the final solution to a value in the range of 5 to 12.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The process of claim 4, wherein (b) contacting the aqueous solution of oxidized maltodextrin and the aqueous solution of the iron (III) salt is carried out at a pH of 2 or less to form a final solution, and the process further comprises (c) raising the pH of the final solution to a value in the range of 5 to 12.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The process of claim 12, wherein (b) contacting the aqueous solution of oxidized maltodextrin and the aqueous solution of the iron (III) salt is carried out at a pH of 2 or less to form a final solution, and the process further comprises (c) raising the pH of the final solution to a value in the range of 5 to 12.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The process of claim 4, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 15°C to the boiling point for 15 minutes up to several hours.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The process of claim 5, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 15°C to the boiling point for 15 minutes up to several hours.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The water soluble iron carbohydrate complex of claim 1, wherein the iron carbohydrate complex has a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 80,000 to 350,000.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The water soluble iron carbohydrate complex of claim 1, wherein the iron carbohydrate complex has a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 80,000 to 300,000.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 40°C to 60°C.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 50°C to the solution boiling point.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A process for producing a water soluble iron carbohydrate complex having a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 80,000 to 400,000, comprising:

(a) oxidizing at least one maltodextrin in an aqueous solution at a pH in the range of 8 to 12 and a temperature in the range of 15 to 40°C, for about 10 minutes to about 4 hours with an aqueous hypochlorite solution to form an oxidized maltodextrin solution,

(b) contacting the oxidized maltodextrin solution with an aqueous solution of an iron (III) salt and

(c) raising the pH of the oxidized maltodextrin solution and iron (III) salt to a value in the range of 5 to 14, wherein,

when one maltodextrin is present, the maltodextrin has a dextrose equivalent of between 5 and 20, and wherein,

when a mixture of more than one maltodextrin is present, the dextrose equivalent of each individual maltodextrin is between 2 and 40, and the dextrose equivalent of the mixture is between 5 and 20.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The process of claim 22, wherein at least one of the following is true: (1) the oxidation in (a) is carried out at a pH in the range of 9 to 11; (2) the temperature at which the oxidation in (a) is carried out is in the range of 25 to 35°C; (3) the time of the oxidation in (a) is about 1 to about 1.5 hours.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The process of claim 22, wherein (b) is carried out at a pH of 2 or less.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The process of claim 22, wherein in (c), the pH is raised to a value in the range of 11 to 14.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The process of claim 22, further comprising after (c), (d) reducing the pH of the solution to a value in the range of 5 to 6.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The process of claim 26, wherein, simultaneous with (c), the solution temperature is or maintained in, the range of 15 to 70°C.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The process of claim 26, wherein simultaneous with (d), the solution temperature, if it is not already at least 50°C, is raised to 50°C, followed by gradually raising the temperature to the solution boiling point.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The process of claim 28, further comprising after (d), (e) cooling the solution to room temperature.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The process of claim 29, further comprising after (e), (f) adjusting the pH to a value in the range of 6 to 7.